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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/026,188	12/21/2001	Charles S. Zuker	02307E-114910US	9521

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EXAMINER

BRANNOCK, MICHAEL T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1646

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/026,188

Applicant(s)

ZUKER ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Brannock

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/30/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application: Claims and Amendments

Claims 10 and 11 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 9/2/04.

The traversal is on the grounds that the subject matter is related and therefore a search of all of it would not be burdensome. This argument has been fully considered but not deemed persuasive. The different groups are independent inventions, one not required for the use of any other, as set forth in the Restriction Requirement. Although a search of any one of the groups may overlap that of another, the search of one group could not be relied upon, solely, to provide art that is anticipatory or would render obvious the invention of any other group, and to search all groups would be burdensome. Therefore, the restriction is maintained and made FINAL.

Applicant is reminded that the claims will be examined only to the extent that they read on the elected SEQ ID NO: 8.

Oath/Declaration

The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

It does not identify the city and either state or foreign country of residence of each inventor. The residence information may be provided on either on an application data sheet or supplemental oath or declaration.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code, see page 52 for example. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-9 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification proposes that at least one of SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, and 8 are taste receptors that modulate taste perception. Also proposed are a multitude of assays, known in the art to be useful for identifying particular biochemical pathways involved with different aspects of taste signal transduction, see pages 23-28. Yet in order to practice the invention as claimed, one skilled in the art would need to know which of these assays, if any, could be used in conjunction with the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 8. This would be expected to be particularly important with regard to the proposed use of the receptors in isolated membranes as claimed in claim 5 for example, because these unknown factors would need to be directly supplied. The specification admits that it is well recognized in

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the art that the signal transduction schemes underlying taste transduction are bewilderingly complex and poorly understood, page 3. Thus, at best, at the time of filing one of skill in the art would expect that to carry out an extensive research plan to try to use the invention as claimed, if that can be done, would be unduly burdensome.

Additionally, the claims are directed to the use of amino acid sequence variants of SEQ ID NO: 8; should Applicant establish that the specification is enabling for assays to measure modulation of taste signaling as claimed with regard to SEQ ID NO: 8, the specification has failed to teach which amino acid substitutions should be made in SEQ ID NO: 8 so as to preserve any function of SEQ ID NO: 8.

The problem of predicting protein structure from sequence data and in turn utilizing predicted structural determinations to ascertain functional aspects of the protein is extremely complex. While it is known that many amino acid substitutions are generally possible in any given protein, the positions within the protein's sequence where such amino acid substitutions can be made with a reasonable expectation of success are limited. Certain positions in the sequence are critical to the protein's structure/function relationship, e.g. such as various sites or regions directly involved in binding, activity and in providing the correct three-dimensional spatial orientation of binding and active sites. These or other regions may also be critical determinants of antigenicity. These regions can tolerate only relatively conservative substitutions or no substitutions (see Bowie et al., 1990, Science 247:1306-1310, especially p.1306, column 2, paragraph 2). However, Applicant has provided little or no guidance beyond the mere presentation of sequence data to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to determine, without undue experimentation, the positions in the protein which are tolerant to change (e.g.

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such as by amino acid substitutions or deletions), and the nature and extent of changes that can be made in these positions. Also, these or other regions may be critical determinants of antigenicity. It is well appreciated in the art of antibody production that it is unpredictable which amino acids are critical antigenic determinants (see Alexander et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 89(3352-3356)1992. Protein antigenicity can be significantly reduced by substitution of even a single residue. Further, even if an amino acid substitution does not destroy the activity of the immunizing protein, the substitution may significantly reduce the antigenicity of the protein (see the Abstract of Alexander et al.). The specification does not provide sufficient guidance as to how to make antibodies that are specific to variants of SEQ ID NO: 8 that can be used for any specific purpose. The specification has not provided guidance as to natural variants that may exist, nor how to use antibodies specific to variants that might be created.

Due to the large quantity of experimentation necessary to generate the infinite number of variants required by the claims and screen same for activity, the lack of direction/guidance presented in the specification regarding which structural features are required in order to provide activity, the absence of specific teachings as to which signal transduction pathways should be monitored, the absence of working examples directed to same, the complex nature of the invention, the state of the prior art which establishes the unpredictability of the effects of mutation on protein structure and function, and the breadth of the claims which fail to recite any structural or functional limitations, undue experimentation would be required of the skilled artisan to make and/or use the claimed invention.

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Claims 1-9 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification discloses polynucleotides encoding polypeptides of SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 8 yet the claims encompass assays involving an essentially limitless genus of polynucleotides not described in the specification, i.e. polynucleotides sequences from other species, mutated sequences, allelic variants, or sequences need only have a recited degree of identity yet which retain the required functional limitations. None of these sequences meet the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Although one of skill in the art would reasonably predict that these sequences exist or could exist, one would not be able make useful predictions as to the nucleotide positions or identities of those sequences based on the information disclosed in the specification.

The instant disclosure of three polynucleotides does not adequately support the scope of the claimed genus, which encompasses a substantial variety of subgenera. A genus claim may be supported by a representative number of species as set forth in *Regents of the University of California v Eli Lilly & Co*, 119F3d 1559, 1569, 43 USPQ2d 1398, 1406 (Fed. Cir. 1997). A description of a genus of cDNAs may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of cDNAs, defined by nucleotide sequence, falling within the scope of the genus, or of a recitation of structural features common to the genus, which features constitute a substantial portion of the genus. The instant specification discloses, however, only three polynucleotide

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sequences, which is not sufficient to describe the essentially limitless genera encompassed by the claims.

With the exception of polynucleotides encoding polypeptides of SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 8 referred to above, the skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed chemical structure of the encompassed variants and therefore conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method of isolation. Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method of isolating it. The nucleic acid itself is required. See *Fiers v. Revel*, 25 USPQ2d 1601 at 1606 (CAFC 1993) and *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016.

One cannot describe what one has not conceived. See *Fiddes v. Baird*, 30 USPQ2d 1481 at 1483. In *Fiddes*, claims directed to mammalian FGF's were found to be unpatentable due to lack of written description for that broad class. The specification provided only the bovine sequence.

Therefore, only the polynucleotides encoding polypeptides of SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 8, but not the full breadth of the claim meets the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicant is reminded that *Vas-Cath* makes clear that the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. §112 is severable from its enablement provision (see page 1115).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-6, 8, 12, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication 2002/0037515, published March 28, 2002, which is fully supported by prior provisional application, US 60/197,491, filed April 17, 2000.

US Patent Publication 2002/0037515 discloses a polypeptide TRP8 that is identical to the instant SEQ ID NO: 8 with the two exceptions that the glutamine at position 630 is missing in TRP8 and threonine is substituted for Aspartic acid at position 990. Never-the-less, TRP8 is asserted to be a taste-cell receptor protein that modulates taste transduction, see the Abstract. The production of Antibodies is disclosed (paragraph 0049) and taught to be used in screening assays to identify modulators of taste transduction see section 5.5. Further, US Patent Publication 2002/0037515 discloses a particular voltage clamp assay that measures the effect of modulators on Calcium mediated activation of the TRP8, see section 6.2.5.

Methods of using these identified modulators to modulate taste signaling in humans is also contemplated, e.g. paragraph 10.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Brannock, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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0869. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback, Ph.D., can be reached at (571) 272-0961.

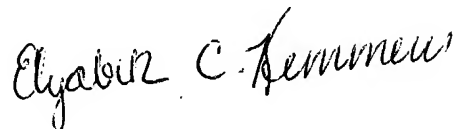
Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 872-9306. Faxed draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

MB



November 27, 2004



ELIZABETH KEMMERER
PRIMARY EXAMINER